

MS. BURK: Hi, my name is Sandy Burk and my husband is a coal miner. I am a daughter of a coal miner, I'm the wife of a coal miner, and I'm a mother of a coal miner. And I'm very proud of these men and for their hard work. I'm having a hard time sitting here today without feeling some emotion for these men and women that work in the coal mines. They're carrying a heavy burden, the climate change is now their fault. The national debt has now become their fault. And I don't agree with that. These are hardworking men and women that go inside these coal mines every day. My husband was on my rescue team for several years and I was asked the question, "Doesn't that scare you?" No. If my son was trapped in a coal mine, I would want my husband to go in after him. He has worked in a coal mine for 39 years of his life and he doesn't suffer from asthma. He goes fishing, he hunts, he loves the forest that he works in, and he takes great pride in what he does, along with all these other men and women that are here standing up for their jobs. We can stand here and tell you the impact it's going to have on our lives if these coal miners lose their jobs, you know that. It's happened in other communities, it's happened with the car industry. It's devastating. I work at a financial institution, it's a small credit union in Central Utah. These coal miners lose their job, I'll lose mine. That credit union will shut down. The small mom and pop shops that are there will shut down. It will be devastating. You know that. A three-year moratorium, if someone came in to me and said, "I need a home loan." "You've got to wait three years before I can decide whether you can have that home loan." We wouldn't be in business. It isn't fair. Coal mining, I think, has a bad reputation. A hundred years ago, it was probably a dirty business. Everything's evolved, everything's changed. Things have gotten better. Twenty years ago, what did a mouse mean to you? A mouse meant a little critter that you didn't want to come inside your home. Now it's something that runs a computer that you point and click with. Things have changed, things have gotten better. I beg you to take a look. I don't know if anything that anybody is saying here today means anything, if you're taking it in. I don't know if I could, sitting there listening to all of us go off, but I beg you to please take a look at this for the economy of Utah, for the cheap electric prices that we all enjoy, and for heating our homes. I just beg that you take all of this into consideration. We're not here to ask you to feel sorry for us. I want you to thank these men and women, these coal miners

that go down underground every day and work hard to provide power for all the American public. Thank you.